EPI Update for Friday, September 20, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Change in pertussis prevention recommendation
- Antibiotic resistance threats in the U.S.
- Iowa influenza surveillance
- Hazard update single load laundry detergent packets
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Change in pertussis prevention recommendation

The national recommendations for use of antimicrobials for pertussis post-exposure prophylaxis have been updated by the CDC to be more consistent with other national pediatric recommendations. The focus of these new recommendations is to protect persons at high risk of severe illness, including infants (<12 months of age); pregnant women in their third trimester; persons with certain pre-existing health conditions; and to decrease the use of unnecessary antibiotics. For more information on the new guidance, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual.

Antibiotic resistance threats in the U.S.

A new report titled *Antibiotic Resistant Threats in the United States 2013*, addresses the burden and threat posed by antibiotic resistant organisms, and ranks threats into three categories: urgent, serious and concerning. Three organisms were identified as urgent threats; these include *clostridium difficile*, carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* and drug resistant gonorrhea. For additional information, visit www.cdc.gov/features/AntibioticResistanceThreats/index.html.

Iowa influenza surveillance

With the flu season rapidly approaching, IDPH is encouraging health care providers to become part of lowa's influenza surveillance efforts by serving as a sentinel surveillance site. (A special thanks to those sites that have contributed to the lowa Influenza Surveillance Network in years past.)

To learn more about the flu surveillance program or to become a sentinel site, please contact Yumei Sun at (515) 281-7134 or yumei.sun@idph.iowa.gov.

Hazard update - single load laundry detergent packets

Last month, a 7-month old Florida child died after exposure to a highly concentrated "single load pack" of laundry detergent. Iowans are urged to keep these packets out of the reach of children. The packets can be attractive to children because they are soft, colorful, and can look like candy, toys, and teething products. After ingestion, children may have loss of consciousness, excessive vomiting, drowsiness, throat swelling, and difficulty breathing (requiring intubation). Eye contact with the laundry packet contents has also resulted in severe irritation and temporary vision loss due to ocular burns.

The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center has received 113 reports of exposures to single-load laundry packets so far in 2013. Most of the incidents (68 percent) were managed at home, but 30 percent required medical treatment. In 2012, the American Association of Poison Control Centers received 6,220 reports of unintended exposures to these laundry packets; most involved patients 5 years of age or younger.

If you think a child has been exposed to a laundry detergent packet, call the Poison Control Center immediately at 1-800-222-1222.

Meeting announcements and training opportunitiesNone

Have a healthy and happy (and much cooler) week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology lowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736